

**AGENDA ITEM:** Statewide Information Databases

**GENERAL OVERALL PROGRAM UPDATES:**

**CURRENT STATUS:**

A. Librarians' Index to the Internet (LII)

The LII has been featured in the *Connection* newsletter published by the California State Library and on the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) website as Library Highlight for October (Exhibit A).

A meeting for indexers and the advisory board will take place during the California Library Association conference to allow indexers a chance to visit with each other and hear about the latest developments with the Librarians' Index. Training for new indexers will take place in January 2001. Fifteen libraries now co-brand with the LII.

Staff met with the California State Library legal counsel Paul Smith to explore copyright issues related to Library of California funding for the LII. He will discuss specifics related to the LII in his presentation to the Board.

Staff developed a digital logo to be used by the LII on their web site to indicate Library of California support for the project. Exhibit B displays the use of the logo. The graphic links to the Library of California web page ([www.library.ca.gov/loc](http://www.library.ca.gov/loc)).

The advisory board will meet again in January 2001. Communication will continue in the interim via email and phone.

B. Regional trial database projects

The trial database projects funded by the Regional Library Network grants continue through June 30, 2001. Reports from each region for the past quarter were in progress at the time of this writing. Summary comments will be presented in person by staff. The LoC digital logo developed by staff will be distributed to each web site hosting connections to these LoC funded trials to improve attribution to the LoC for support of each project.

C. Arroyo Seco Cooperative Purchase Pilot

The Arroyo Seco Planning region steering committee for the full text cooperative licensing arrangement will meet on November 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> in Los Angeles. The committee will review the scope and activities of the grant with the consultant hired to execute the work plan of the project.

D. Statewide Information Database Licensing

As the regional library networks review their plans of service staff will be available to consult on options available for each region to support cooperative licensing arrangements. Statewide activities should be coordinated with regional efforts. The full text periodical licensing pilot in Arroyo Seco should provide further guidance on best practices at both the regional and state level. Staff are still working with two national regional library networks (BCR and AMIGOS) to provide options to LoC regional networks for cooperative licensing arrangements.

E. RAND California Trial Database Project

The survey of participants in the RAND California trial project has been completed. One hundred seventy nine surveys were returned from the four hundred and thirty eight registrants, a forty one percent return rate.

Exhibit C displays the significant data generated by the survey and includes comments from the participants on various aspects of the trial.

The survey respondents mirrored the level of participation by library type with the exception of the school libraries who had fewer survey respondents. Results may show some bias toward the public library experience since survey respondents included more of that type of library than reflected in the level of participation in the trial itself.

Chart 5 clearly indicates that most school and special libraries did not have any significant use of the database. This result indicates the difficulty of a single product addressing the needs of a variety of library types. Relatively low levels of use of the product may also be the result of the novelty of the service; established products are more familiar to libraries and therefore potential usefulness can be more accurately gauged.

Chart 6 displays the use of a variety of promotional efforts by library staff. Lack of time for training is listed most often (Table 2) as an impediment to the use of RAND.

Staff experience suggests that the evaluation process and the process of establishing eligibility for the trial project consumed more time than anticipated.

Frequent communication with the vendor representative was required to resolve eligibility issues. Future evaluations should be incorporated into trial projects as part of any proposal so that costs can be included in the budget process.

F. RAND California Cooperative Licensing

Information about cooperative licensing arrangements for the 2000–2001 fiscal year were disseminated through notification of the trial project survey. RAND itself has promoted libraries' participation in the cooperative licensing service. Approximately 36 libraries have subscribed through the LoC fiscal agent so far.

G. Library of California Periodicals/Serials Database

Reporting requirements for the Serials Service bureau have been streamlined so that less time is spent on these activities. Staff is working to insure that CLSA systems that produce union serials lists are coordinated with the work of the Serials Service bureau and the California Digital Library.

Relevant Committee: Support Services  
Staff Liaison: Ira Bray